[Shri Jagat Veer Singh Drona]

Secondly, I would like to mention the assurance given by Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Minister of Textiles for timely payment of salaries to the remaining workers of NTC after introducing the Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the workers. All these problems are occurring because the Government have not taken any effective measures in this regard. The salaries for two months have been paid to them but still salary of one month is due. I request the Government to consider the matter seriously and fulfill the assurances given by it. It is the only source of income for workers. Timely payment of salaries should be ensured so that they could fullfil the needs of their families. The scheme for modernisation of NTC, introduced by the Government should be implemented at the earliest.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the shortage of LPG in my constituency Patna. Though this problem is being faced all over Bihar but Patna is facing acute shortage of LPG. There one has to stand in a long queue for LPG. Several other Hon. Members and I, myself have raised this issue here time and again but the Government have not paid attention towards it. Patna has a population of 20-25 lakh. LPG is not being supplied Commissurate to the requirement and this is the reason for acute shortage of LPG there.

I request you to take measures for removal of their problems because people have to wait for a long time for getting LPG. The quota of supply of LPG should be raised, as more number of people have been given LPG connections. At present the supply of LPG for Patna is not proportionate to the population of the city. I request you that LPG quota should be increased. Women are facing problems in cooking on this count and I request the hon. Minister of Petroleum for increasing the quota of LPG so that this problem could be removed.

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE (Jabalpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to deforestation on large scale during the 50 years after independence, the quantity of fuelwood has reduced in Madhya Pradesh there used to be fuel wood 'Beshram' which was not used earlier as cooking fuel as it was considered dangerous. But at present it is being used because there is shortage of coal and kerosene. People have to queue up for long time for kerosene and they get it with great difficulty. A quota of 25 has allotted to MPs but I have received 1300 applications during last eight months. Every MP is facing this problem. There is a quota of 25 and 500 persons are waiting for it. I, therefore, request you to raise it upto 100.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) :Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to make my submission. I would not dwell at length on this issue—this issue has already been raised many times by respected Shri Vajpayee ji and other hon. Members—of UP police firing in the BHU campus.

I would like to convey to you and through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government as well—I hope, Shri Ram Vilas Ji would bring it to the notice of the hon. Home Minister—to the fact that the situation in the Benaras city after the police firing inside the BHU campus has not only alarmed the students of the Benaras Hindu University but also has alarmed the students of the Northern India as a whole. Therefore, I would like to convey the decision of the National Students Union of India which they have conveyed to me for conveying it to the House. They said that unless a judicial enquiry into the police firing is conducted immediately by the Ministry of Home Affairs; unless the students who have been harassed by the Superintendent of Police are released immediately; unless a sum of Rs. two lakh as compensation is paid to the victims who have lost their lives in the police firing; unless the Superintendent of Police and the ADM of Benaras city are transferred immediately and unless the Advisor of the Governor goes there to restore normalcy, it would create fire among the students of the entire Northern India. The situation is so grave that the police firing incident inside the BHU campus would carry a message to the students community, including those of Delhi, and it would then be impossible to prevent the students movement.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government to respond to these demands—immediate institution of a judicial enquiry; immediate transfer of the SP and the ADM of Benaras city; immediate release of the students; release of compensation etc.—and to take all steps to restore normal situation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Otherwise, I am told that the situation is so alarming that tomorrow or the day after—if the Government do not come forward with a decision—similar things would happen in Delhi University and all other places in Northern India in support of the demands so made. That is what I wanted to convey.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareily) : Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards an important problem being faced in Uttar Pradesh. Uptron is a leading Public Sector Undertaking located at Lucknow. But due to instable governments in the State for a long time, this undertaking is facing problems and its condition is deteriorating. Its units which were earning profit upto 1988-89, are now incurring losses. The future of thousands of its employees and their family has become uncertain. The employees are going to hold dharna and demonstration. They all are reputed engineers. Unfortunately, at present the Government sector is encouraging private institutions and thus there is resentment among the employees of Uptron. In view of the seriousness of the matter, I request the Government that Uptron should be revived and instructions should be issued to the hon. Governor to provide

governmental assistance, if needed to this undertaking so that it can work smoothly. I would like to say that much only that it would be in the interest of this undertaking and its employees if the present practice of engaging private institutions for governmental electronic works is abandoned and all the orders regarding electronics should be placed to Uptron.

[English]

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, this is in regard to the smuggling business which is going on in some of our border areas, especially on the Nepal border, which has been causing a very serious situation in the field of some of our agricultural products, especially cardamom. This spice which is produced by India, which is of the best quality in the world, is facing a very serious crisis. It is because low quality cardamom is being smuggled from Guatemala and some other countries of the world.

It comes to the Calcutta Port from where it is taken to Nepal by road. The smuggling is going on indiscriminately. It has been brought to the notice of the Ministry and the Government but so far no effective step is taken. Unless some effective steps are taken, the best quality cardamon which we are producing will be mixed with the low quality cardamom coming from abroad and our export in this respect, which is earning high income in the form of foreign exchange, will suffer a lot.

Same is the case with regard to clove, which is another high quality spice produced in India. The farmers are facing a very serious situation because its prices have gone down very steeply. The low quality clove comes from Sri Lanka or other countries. It comes in a similar way as does the cardamom. I would urge upon the Government to take some step in this regard. This matter has been raised by the farmers who are producing cardamom as well as clove. It has also been brought to the notice of the Government but no effective step has been taken. I urge upon the Government to take serious note of it and take serious action in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Pudrauna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the plight of sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh. In the last fifty years, the farmers had never faced such difficulties in the disposal of sugarcane. At present, there are 113-114 sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh. Since long the State Government used to fix the price of sugarcane after holding talks with the mill owners. It is true that High Court and Supreme Court have stated that the State Government does not have such power. The Governor called all the mill owners and fixed a price of Rs. 72 per quintal for sugarcane. Some mill owners refused to give this rate and insisted that they would make the payment at the rate of Rs. 62 per quintal and will raise the rates by Rs. 4 twice thus they would make a payment @ of Rs. 70 next year. Agitations were held on this issue and lakh of people were failed. I was also jailed. Infact I have been jailed twice on this matter. All the private sector mills refused to made payment @ Rs. 70/- per quintal. There are nine sugar mills in my constituency. The sugar mills at Ramkola Khetan is making payment @ Rs. 72/- whereas its neighbouring sugarmill at Ramkola P. is not paying even Rs. 70. For months now, agitations are being held, people are sitting on fasts and are jailed. Such a situation has never been arisen previously in the country. There is no law and orders. More Surprising is the fact that there is President Rule in Uttar Pradesh.

The representative of Union Government *i.e.* the Governor fixes a price of Rs. 70. The private mill owners are not paying even Rs. 70. The levy sugar was available earlier at the rate of Rs. 9.05 per kg. and now its price has been raised to Rs. 10.30 per kg. The price of sugar was hiked at the instance of mill owners. Thus this resulted in an increase of Rs. 150 per quintal. As a result thereof, the mill owners earned profits of billions of rupees. On the orders of Governor, the Uttar Pradesh Corporation sugar mills are paying Rs. 72 whereas the sugar mills under Central Public Sector like at Pudrauna and Kathkuian are not following these orders. What would be more surprising than this ? The Union Government sugar mills maintain that they would not pay this much and the private mill owners say that they would not give this much. Lakhs of people were jailed on this issue ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Mishra, this is the zero hour. Please speak to the point and do not start a discussion.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : In the end I would request that uniformity should be ensured throughout the State regarding the price of sugarcane. All the mill owners in Uttar Pradesh should be asked to make a payment @ Rs. 72 per quintal. An additional payment should also be made to sugarcane growers in view of the hike in sugar prices @ Rs. 150 per quintal.

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA (Bustar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister of Railways towards the fact that the people of Chhatisgarh have been struggling since the sixties for creating a seprate Railway zone at Bilaspur. Not only this, the Chhatra Sangharsh Samiti is going to start relay hunger strike at Jantar Mantar Road, New Delhi. Under the leadership of the Chief Minister Shri Digvijay Singh, the matter regarding setting up of a new zone at Bilaspur was discussed with Hon'ble Minister of Railways and Hon'ble Prime Minister. Inspite of that, Hon'ble Minister of Railways did not pay any attention in this regard. The Railway Reforms Committee has also given its approval on the justification of setting up of a new zone at Bilaspur. However the Fifth Pay Commission has not only opposed but also condemned the setting up of the newly announced zones.